Message

From: Faeth, Lisa [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=12AF792B39CC4B4FA8089976F3F8859F-LFAETH]
Sent: 6/21/2018 3:40:35 PM
To: Askinazi, Valerie [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e0f11a6972234134ae9b2f59a4a26709-Askinazi, V]; Baptist, Erik [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=10fc1b085ee14c6cb61db378356a1eb9-Baptist, Er]; Barkas, Jessica [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=808724835d8a457fb0c5333e62b34291-Barkas, Jessica]; Beck, Nancy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=168ecb5184ac44de95a913297f353745-Beck, Nancy]; Bertrand, Charlotte [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f044d768e05842e1b75321ff6010e1b8-Bertrand, Charlotte]; Blair, Susanna [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6c869b985f3d43db982c18aaabd826bd-Blair, Susa]; Blunck, Christopher [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=827cd31fd0484c319e5a2e7511f65461-Blunck, Christopher]; Brown, Sam [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=da0a099605514dbeb3ebab7aaf253de6-Brown, Sam]; Buster, Pamela [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1b0d03c8a52440b7a95343287b8928c5-PBuster]; Canavan, Sheila [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8e5453ba7f3d4582a0eff06ed80a5e79-Canavan, Sheila]; Caraballo, Mario [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=07e9d657e48042fea4bb7c68f78a023c-Caraballo, Mario]; Carroll, Megan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=882c7705ed3f4d50aba9a7870f9eb6cc-MCarr03]; Cherepy, Andrea [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c52459ab00fd4f0eae85c32cdc9c73dd-ACherepy]; Christian, Myrta [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=207ad12497b04bcf8e80a0024b35a18a-MChris02]; Corado, Ana [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9bb9257919594061b763f306c2f8be60-ACorado]; Davies, Clive [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6eca39ab66ea413993d7355fd46b1008-Davies, Clive]; DeDora, Caroline [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8e587cd3b59b46f59a369df26390fd9f-Newton, Caroline]; Devito, Steve [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=be78622515bd451e96e948786357fb45-SDevito]; Doa, Maria [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=99e502a905374b0b890db9b22e18d92e-MDoa02]; Drewes, Scott [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1107458a6d814a61ab24b605aff2c7ba-Drewes, Scott]; Dunton, Cheryl [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2ffa0e71e87448cc9fd86ba1379ea93a-Dunton, Cheryl]; Ebzery, Joan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5729928cba7e4025bbdcd3504c791095-JEbzery]; Edelstein, Rebecca [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9549e6e2f43e4a3c88cc3bea8f7220f5-Rebecca L Edelstein]; Edmonds, Marc [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed31dcc62754411aae5e1be96ed01f1d-MEdmonds]; Eglsaer, Kristie [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5365adea6f9a4f3397bdc735dafe4c32-Friesenhahn, Kristie]; Elwood, Holly [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fc14ca33efe94036a4b406c9951eb70a-HElwood]; Faeth, Lisa [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

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Subject: News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT ARTICLES

Unilever Admits to Struggle With Plastic Wrapping

By Stephen Gardner

Posted June 21, 2018, 3:01 AM

Dealing with plastic packaging is proving tough for the world's largest consumer goods company.

Pruitt's Ethics Allegations Dog Nominees for EPA Posts at Hearing

By Sylvia Carignan

Posted June 20, 2018, 12:54 PM

Members of a Senate panel pressed two nominees for EPA posts, including Superfund program chief, for assurances they wouldn't fall prey to unethical behavior.

Senate GOP Ally of Pruitt's Says Concerns Allayed After Meeting (1)

By Ari Natter

Posted June 20, 2018, 10:46 AMUpdated June 20, 2018, 12:27 PM

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's longtime friend and political ally on Capitol Hill is walking back his criticism of the embattled agency leader after the two met June 19 evening.

INSIDEEPA.COM ARTICLES

Pruitt's Scandals Complicate Path For EPA Waste, International Nominees

Ongoing concerns about EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's ethics scandals, the agency's limited responses to oversight requests and other issues will make it difficult for President Donald Trump's nominees to head the agency's waste and international affairs offices to gain Senate approval, Democratic senators told a June 20 environment committee hearing.

Reversing Course, Inhofe Defends Pruitt, Calling Accusations 'Lies'

Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) is strongly defending EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt against numerous allegations of unethical conduct, calling them "outrageous lies," an apparent reversal from a week ago when the senator said he was upset by Pruitt's missteps and suggested the administrator might need to step down.

ATSDR Seeks To Downplay Effect Of PFAS Risk Levels Stricter Than EPA's

A federal health agency has released its much-anticipated draft toxicological profile for perfluorinated chemicals that recommends risk values more conservative than EPA's, but the agency is downplaying potential health concerns from exposures above its limits, cautioning the public not to read its levels as cleanup or health effects standards.

GREENWIRE ARTICLES

Inhofe defends Pruitt, despite 'questionable judgment'

Geof Koss and Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporters

Published: Wednesday, June 20, 2018

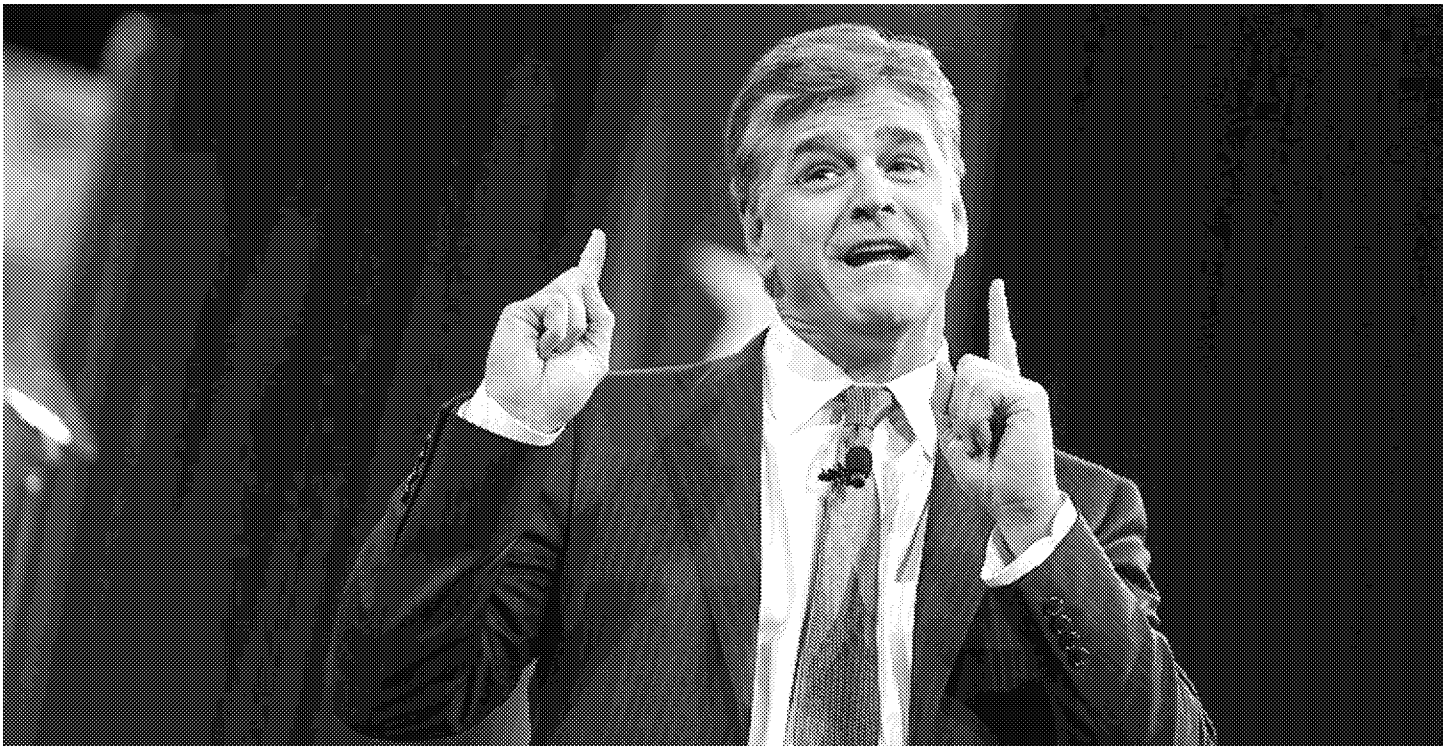
EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (left) and Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) are shown here in 2010 during Pruitt's campaign for Oklahoma attorney general. Pruitt/Facebook

Following a lengthy meeting with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt yesterday evening, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) is dismissing the host of ethics questions surrounding his onetime political protégé as "misrepresentations."

In an interview with E&E News and other media outlets in his office this morning, Inhofe pinned blame for Pruitt's ethics scandals on California billionaire Tom Steyer, "disgruntled" former employees, the media and what he described as unprecedented security threats against the former Oklahoma attorney general.

Sean Hannity declined jet ride with Pruitt

Zack Colman, E&E News reporter Published: Wednesday, June 20, 2018



Fox News talk show host Sean Hannity was invited to ride on a jet with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt last summer. Gage Skidmore/Flickr

EPA officials asked Sean Hannity to hop into a jet with agency chief Scott Pruitt when he barnstormed farming communities to promote changes to a water pollution rule.

The Fox News host ultimately didn't join Pruitt for a jaunt across Oklahoma to talk about the Waters of the United States rule, emails shared with E&E News by the Natural Resources Defense Council showed. But the communications, obtained via Freedom of Information Act request, shed more light on EPA's media strategy.

https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/06/20/stories/1060085237

Federal study sounds alarm on nonstick materials

Ariel Wittenberg, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Health and Human Services headquarters in Washington. Matthew G. Bisanz/Wikipedia

The Trump administration has released a politically charged toxicology report about nonstick chemicals showing they can endanger human health at significantly lower levels than EPA has previously called safe.

The draft report from the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is a toxicological profile of four types of stain- and water-resistant chemicals.

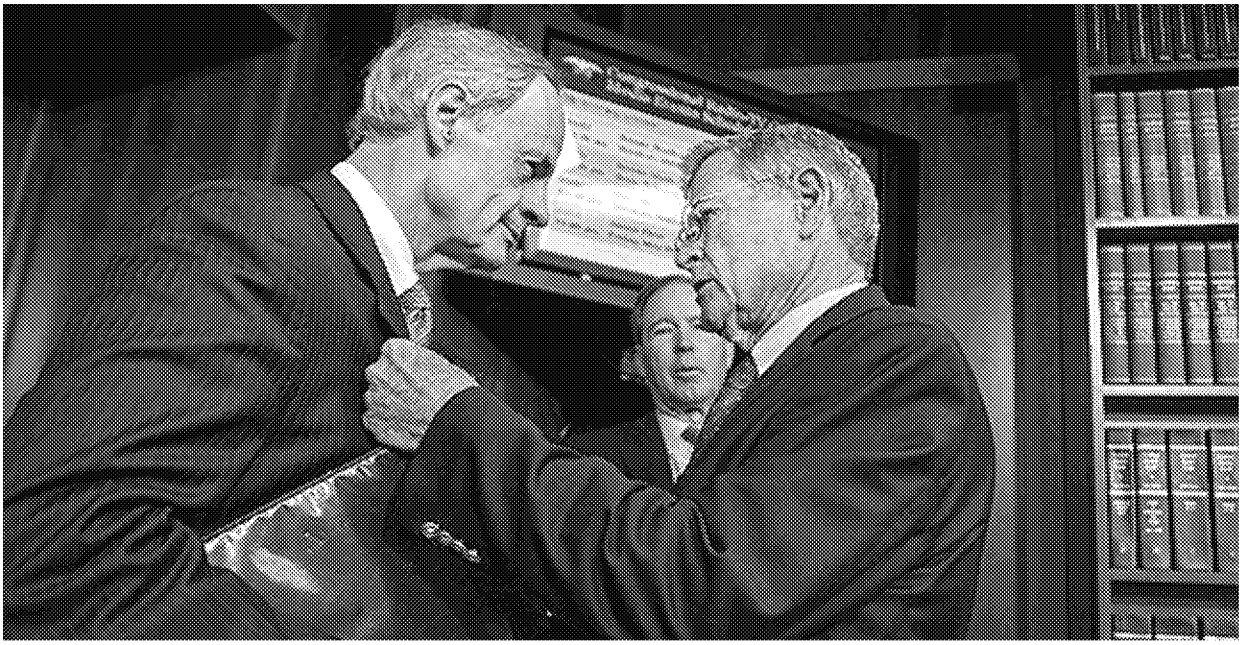
It finds that so-called "minimum risk levels" for the toxins should be seven to 10 times lower than standards set by EPA in 2016.

https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/06/20/stories/1060085217

Carper, Inhofe spar over Pruitt at confirmation hearing

Corbin Hiar, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 20, 2018



Sens. Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) are shown here in a 2015 file photo. The two lawmakers this morning squared off during a hearing over EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's alleged actions. Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call/Associated Press

Arguments over EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's scandals, and the media's coverage of them, overshadowed a Senate confirmation hearing this morning for two nominees who hope to help him lead the agency.

Delaware Sen. Tom Carper, the top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee, used his opening statement to criticize Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) for failing to promptly call Pruitt to testify as news reports raised questions about work that staffers have allegedly done for his family, his spending on travel and a secure phone booth, and his use of sports tickets secured by executives with business before the agency, among other issues.

Career staff warned cuts would cripple research office

Corbin Hiar, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 20, 2018

EPA headquarters in Washington. Tim Evanson/Flickr

EPA career officials warned the Trump administration last year that its proposed staffing changes and budget shortfalls could undermine the agency's scientific research, documents show.

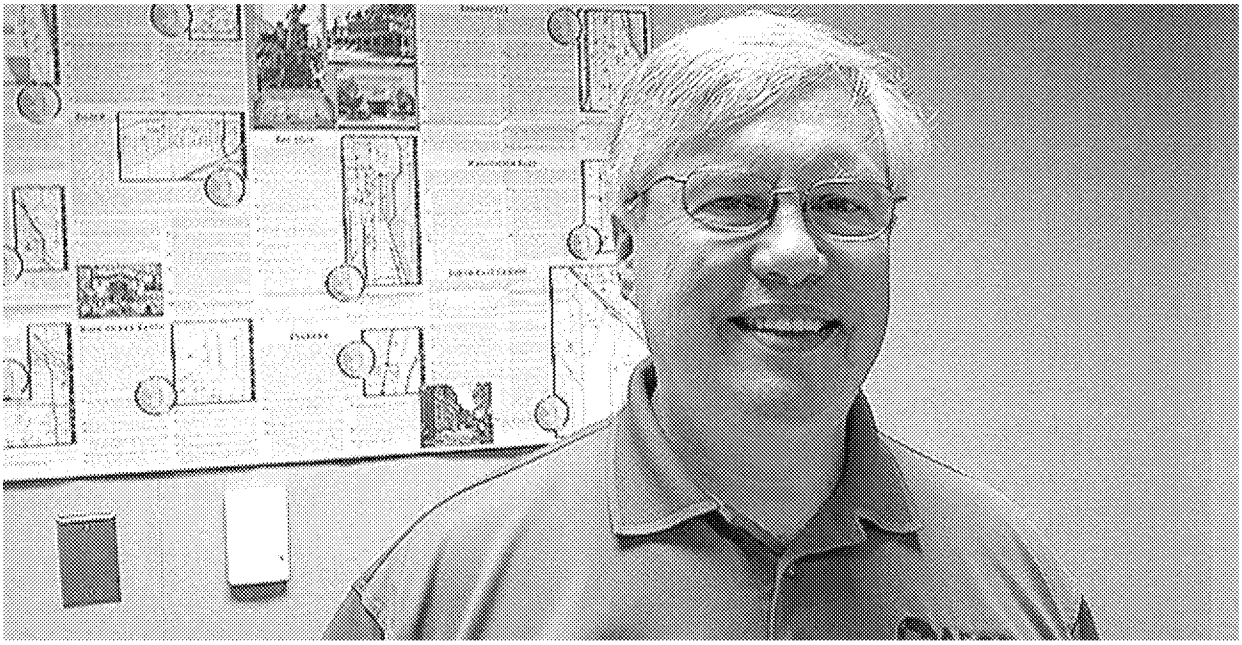
As political appointees began assembling a strategic plan to guide the agency through 2022, staffers in the Office of Research and Development alerted them to risks facing their programs.

The most serious risk — in terms of both its likelihood of happening and the extent of its potential impact — was that ORD would be unable to maintain a "sustainable workforce," says the undated draft assessment staffers had to provide to EPA's Office of Program Accountability and Resource Management by Aug. 2, 2017.

Union chief heads for the exit

Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 20, 2018



John O'Grady is president of the American Federation of Government Employees Council 238, EPA's largest union. O'Grady/Flickr

John O'Grady, head of EPA's largest employee union, is retiring.

As president of American Federation of Government Employees Council 238, he represents about 8,000 EPA employees through 14 local unions nationwide. O'Grady said he will retire from EPA and resign from his position as head of the council at the end of this month.

In an interview with E&E News, O'Grady, 66, said the time was right to depart, noting his wife was also retiring as a teaching assistant job in the Naperville, Ill., school district.

"I looked at all the financial numbers, and it just made sense," O'Grady said. "I wanted to enjoy some things."

Denise Morrison, executive vice president for the council, will be its acting president after O'Grady's departure. A special election will be held later on to fill the job permanently.

CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES

US senators demand release of controversial PFAS report

Bill would continue current EPA funding, differing little from House plan

20 June 2018 / PFCs, United States

A US Senate committee has ordered the release of controversial toxicological profiles for four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs).

The demand comes in a report accompanying a fiscal 2019 spending bill, approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on 14 June. It directs the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to release its analyses within 15 days of the final approval of the EPA's 2019 spending plan.

Adoption of the plan is unlikely to occur before the autumn, so the instruction may end up having little practical effect. Nevertheless it does amount to a public statement.

A row erupted after the public release of internal EPA documents showed that the ATSDR assessments propose safe exposure levels for PFASs significantly below the EPA's non-enforceable drinking water guidelines. In internal agency emails, officials called this a "public relations nightmare" and NGOs have claimed the Trump administration is blocking release of the assessments.

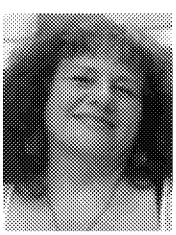
The Senate committee not only demands release of the study, but also asks for a report "identifying any changes made" to the toxicology profiles after 30 January.

Spending bill

The Senate spending bill would continue current funding for the US EPA and its programmes in chemical research and management, differing only slightly from legislation approved earlier by the House Appropriations Committee.

Both bills reject Trump administration proposals for huge spending cuts. They provide the same $92.5m for the "toxics risk review and prevention" funding category as in fiscal 2017 and 2018.

The senators instruct the EPA to follow lawmakers' 2018 order to continue operating the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) programme under the Office of Research and Development. The House bill does not mention IRIS, and so the programme appears to be safe.



Julie Miller

Reporter

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- Pruitt downplays EPA role in PFAS study row

- Congress rejects Trump plan to slash EPA budget
- US Congress likely to reject EPA cuts again
- Trump proposes slashing EPA budget again

Further Information:

- Senate appropriations report

National Academies forms flame retardant committee

20 June 2018 / Built environment, Children's products, Electrical & electronics, Halocarbons, United States

The National Academies has appointed a new committee to assess potential chronic health hazards, posed by organohalogen flame retardants.

Its findings will ultimately inform a Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) assessment of the risk that additive, nonpolymeric organohalogen flame retardants (OFRs) pose to human health from four consumer products categories.

These are: children's products, upholstered residential furniture, mattresses and the external casings of electronics devices.

The CPSC's work on the products comes after its September decision to grant an NGO petition to begin a rulemaking that could see OFRs banned from these applications.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) is tasked with producing a hazard assessment plan that the CPSC-convened Chronic Advisory Panel (CHAP) will use when completing its risk assessment.

The committee's provisional slate – pending a public comment period and final approval by the National Academies – comprises:

- David Dorman (chair) – professor of toxicology, North Carolina State University;
- Hugh Barton – associate research fellow, Pfizer, Inc;
- Karen Blackburn – Victor Mills Society research fellow, The Procter and Gamble Co;
- John Bucher – senior scientist, National Toxicology Program (NTP);
- Julie Daniels – professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;
- Jennifer Freeman – associate professor, School of Health Sciences at Purdue University;
- Kamel Mansouri – lead computational chemist, Integrated Laboratory Systems;
- Carmen Messerlian – research scientist, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health;
- David Reif – associate professor, North Carolina State University;
- Gina Solomon – principal investigator, Public Health Institute; and
- Chihae Yang – chief scientific officer, Altamira LLC.

Comments on the committee appointments are being accepted for 20 days, following the original posting of membership.

Related Articles

- US body seeks nominees for flame retardant hazard assessment
- US CPSC investigates possible action against organohalogen flame retardants

Further Information:

- NAS release
- Plan overview
- Committee membership

Campaigners secure third paint stripper victory with Home Depot

Retailer to phase out NMP, methylene chloride products by year's end

20 June 2018 / Built environment, Retail, Solvents, United States

NGO campaigners are celebrating the latest "nail in the coffin" for paint strippers containing methylene chloride and N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP), following news that the world's largest home improvement retailer, Home Depot, will no longer sell them.

In recent weeks, retail giants Lowe's and Sherwin-Williams have pledged to phase out the sale of the products by the year's end. This week, Home Depot announced plans to do the same.

"To build upon our strategy to maintain continual improvement in health and environmental safety for products, we have added many alternative chemical paint removers, and will phase out paint removal products that contain methylene chloride and N-Methylpyrrolidone (NMP) by the end of 2018," says the store's website.

Mike Schade, Mind the Store campaign director at Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, said that the action means "the time for hazardous paint strippers is over".

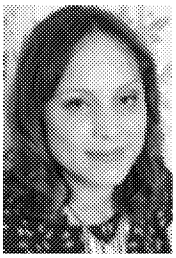
He urged the retailers which continue to stock these products – including Menards, Walmart and Ace Hardware – to phase out the products' sales by the end of the year.

Canadian NGO Environmental Defence similarly called for Canadian Tire and Home Hardware to follow suit.

Mike Belliveau, executive director of NGO, the Environmental Health Strategy Center, also urged the US EPA to take action on the two solvents in order to "sweep up the laggards".

The agency announced last month that it will finalise a rule on methylene chloride, after its proposal to ban or restrict methylene chloride and NMP in paint strippers appeared to be shelved last year.

But thus far, it has not indicated a timeline for this final rule, nor whether it will address NMP.



Tammy Lovell

Business reporter

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- Lowe's to phase out methylene chloride, NMP paint removers
- Sherwin-Williams to stop selling methylene chloride paint removers
- Mind the Store campaign to target more US retailers in 2018
- Walmart aligns disclosure policy with Californian law
- US EPA commits to act on methylene chloride paint strippers
- Restrictions on methylene chloride, NMP, TCE apparently shelved by US EPA

Further Information:

- Home Depot announcement
- Mind the Store release

Andy Igrejas: 1970-2018

Campaigner and powerful voice in TSCA negotiations dies aged 47

21 June 2018 / North America, TSCA

Chemical Watch has learned of the recent passing of US public health advocate Andy Igrejas at the age of 47.

Founder of the NGO Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, Mr Igrejas built a coalition of more than 450 organisations to advocate for stronger chemical safety laws and better protection of consumer health.

He was a powerful voice in the negotiations to reform the US's outdated federal TSCA law. And despite not endorsing the final bill, SCHF says Mr Igrejas "directly wrung more health-protective concessions even up through the final hours of negotiations."

Mr Igrejas also conceived the Mind the Store Campaign which has helped drive retailers to act on chemicals issues where the government has failed to do so. Just this week, the campaign played an instrumental part in convincing Home Depot to halt the sale of paint strippers containing methylene chloride, where the EPA has stalled on its own rule.

Beyond his legislative and grassroots efforts, Mr Igrejas will be remembered for his effective communication and sense of humour.

"His humour was infectious, and no one escaped his wit," an SCHF statement says. "Andy could have had a second career in stand-up comedy. But in those moments, he wasn't simply entertaining. For Andy, it was also a subversive organising technique that endeared him to allies and disarmed our opponents."

"He was a passionate, talented and committed advocate who dedicated his life to protecting children and families from toxic chemicals," said Sarah Vogel, vice president for health at the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). "He will be greatly missed."

And Cal Dooley, president and CEO of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) said: "Over the years and through many hours of dialogue and negotiation, I and other members of the ACC team developed great respect for the commitment and passion Andy brought to his work to promote the safe use of chemicals.

"With Andy's passing, the environmental community has lost a tireless voice and dedicated advocate."

Related Articles

- Campaigners secure third paint stripper victory with Home Depot

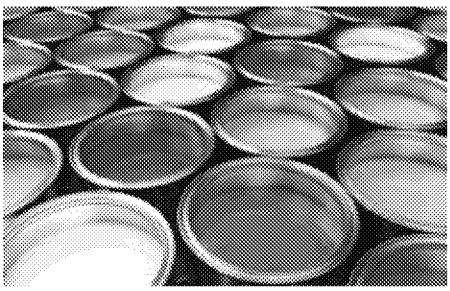
Further Information:

- SCHF tribute

Paint industry frustrated by Rac limit for paint preservative MBIT

Use will require skin sensitiser classification

21 June 2018 / Built environment, Classification, Classification, labelling and packaging Regulation, Europe, Risk assessment, Sensitisers



The European paint industry is "surprised" and disappointed that Echa's Risk Assessment Committee has agreed that the preservative MBIT should have a specific concentration limit (SCL) of 15 parts per million (ppm) for classification as a category 1A skin sensitiser.

The preservative is commonly used in cans of water-based products, such as paints, and the aim is to prevent skin sensitisation induction in exposed people.

Industry had hoped for a higher concentration limit for MBIT (2-methyl-1,2-benzisothiazol3(2H)-one), said Didier Leroy, technical director at the European Council of the Paint, Printing and Artists' Colours Industry (Cepe). "It is a concerning development that all isothiazolinones that go through Rac get lower [than expected] thresholds," he added.

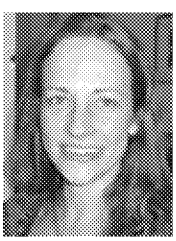
In 2016, the committee also decided on a 15ppm specific concentration limit for MIT and a mixture of CMIT and MIT. During its meeting on 4-8 June, Rac decided that MBIT is in the same "bracket of potency" as MIT and CMIT. "We came to the conclusion that it was very similar," said Rac chair Tim Bowmer.

MBIT prevents bacteria, yeast and moulds from growing in products but is not effective at 15ppm, said Mr Leroy. "Should our members want to use it, they would have to classify their paint or printing inks."

"That does not send a good signal to those adventurous biocide suppliers who would still try to get a new biocide substance on the market. Innovation is quasi non-existent and we observe the continuous reduction of availability of efficient preservatives," he said.

MBIT, CMIT and MIT are described as "product-type 6" biocides under the biocidal products Regulation (BPR); MBIT was approved as a new active substance last year.

Industry has long voiced concerns about the "uncertain" availability of active substances. Only a handful of substances can preserve products without affecting performance, it says.



Dr Emma Davies

Reporter

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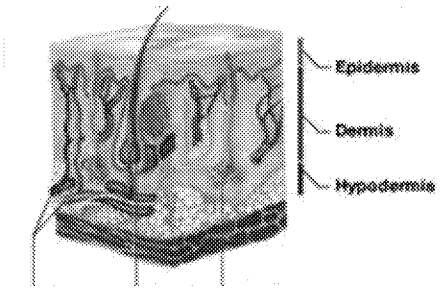
- Echa biocides committee supports approval of two exclusion candidates
- Authorities block industry appeal for holistic preservatives evaluation

Tattoo ink restriction 'complicated', says Echa's risk assessment committee

Some 3,000 chemicals must be addressed

21 June 2018 / Europe, REACH, Risk assessment



Echa's risk assessment committee (Rac) is continuing to review information on around 3000 chemicals used in tattoo inks and permanent make-up (PMU), for a proposed REACH restriction. "It's complicated – there are a lot of groups of substances that need to be addressed," said chair Tim Bowmer, following the Rac's meeting on 4-8 June 2018.

Chemicals requiring review include carcinogens, mutagens, reprotoxic substances, sensitisers and irritating or corrosive substances. The Rac is currently considering concentration limits, in the context of current analytical methods' detection limits, said Dr Bowmer. Levels that protect consumers are required but analytical restraints mean that setting levels too low may make harmonised enforcement across the EU difficult.

"In most cases, we are rather looking for a concentration limit that will reasonably regulate a substance in tattoo inks and will relatively easily allow enforcement to check."

Some of the substances come under the cosmetics products Regulation or are subject to harmonised classification under CLP. Most are covered by a Council of Europe recommendation on tattoo inks, on which seven member states have based national legislation.

Unique exposure route

The intra-dermal exposure route for both tattoo inks and PMU is unique among REACH risk assessments, according to the restriction proposal. It contains one exposure scenario, based on a "realistic worst case situation". This consists of single, full-colour, tattoo sessions on 300cm^2 skin, repeated until most of the body is covered.

Rac has access to quantitative risk assessments for some of the compounds but for others has to rely on semi-quantitative or qualitative evaluations. The restriction dossier proposes that a qualitative risk assessment will often suffice, given the exposure route, and makes the "important assumption" that injecting substances will give more severe adverse effects than applying them to the skin's surface. The dossier also describes the "major challenge" of a lack of harmonised analytical methods for analysing some of the components of tattoo and PMU inks, such as azo dyes. "There is a need for such methods to be developed," it states.

The restriction proposal was under public consultation until 20 June 2018. In their comments, NGOs the Health and Environmental Alliance (HEAL) and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) point out that intra-dermal exposure is

"very poorly understood" and that ingestion "isn't necessarily or obviously predictive" of adverse outcomes. They support including tattoo workers in the restriction. Estimating workers' exposure would be "dramatically" simpler than estimating recipients' exposure because it requires a simple risk assessment involving inhalation and dermal exposures, they add.

In its comments, Sweden advocates listing all ingredients on ink labels. In particular, it suggests that products containing chromium VI should come with a warning such as: "Contains chromium. Can cause allergic reactions".

The Rac and the committee for socio-economic analysis (Seac) have until the end of 2018 to give their opinions on the restriction proposal for tattoo inks and PMU, put together by Echa, Denmark, Italy and Norway.

"I think this is a serious restriction. We are not trying to ban tattoo inks or drive it underground. We just want whatever is there to be safe," Dr Bowmer said.

Dr Emma Davies

Reporter

Related Articles

- Echa's Rac discusses restriction proposal for tattoo substances
- Echa opens consultation on tattoo ink substances restriction

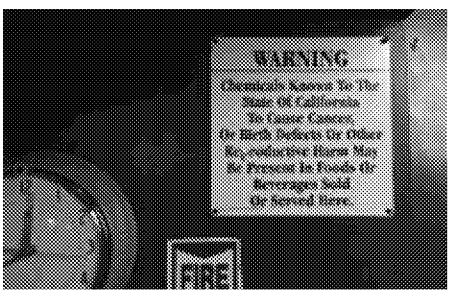
Further Information:

- Restriction report
- Restriction

California court upholds Proposition 65 lead limit

Federal judge affirms injunction against glyphosate warning mandate

21 June 2018 / California Prop 65, Labelling, Metals, United States



A court in California has found that the state "did not abuse its authority" in setting a permissible exposure level for lead, leaving in place the "safe harbour" level used to decide when warnings are required under Proposition 65.

In 2015, the NGO Mateel Environmental Justice Foundation sued the state's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (Oehha), seeking to invalidate the maximum allowable dose level (MADL) the agency had set for lead in 1989.

The NGO argued that the MADL does not set a standard at which there would be "no observable effect" from lead exposure. This is a requirement under Proposition 65.

However, on 5 June, the California Court of Appeal for the First District agreed with a lower court's decision in favour of Oehha. It said that data presented by the NGO does not prove that the existing MADL is invalid.

If the courts had ordered its repeal, there would have been no "safe harbour" in place. Employees and consumers would have had to be warned about any potential exposure to lead, until Oehha could set a new standard.

Lead and related chemicals are listed under Prop 65 for cancer and reproductive toxicity (male reproductive, female reproductive and developmental toxicity endpoints).

Mateel was one of three NGOs that separately petitioned Oehha to expand the basis for listing lead as a female reproductive toxicant. The agency rejected that petition in 2016.

Glyphosate injunction

In a separate 12 June proceeding, a federal judge has refused to change his ruling that temporarily blocks California from requiring labelling of products containing the herbicide glyphosate. This is while a trial continues on the constitutionality of Proposition 65 warning requirements.

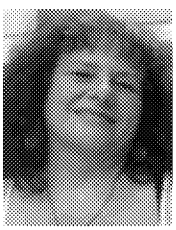
District Judge William Shubb issued a preliminary injunction in March. He said Monsanto is likely to win on its claim that requiring a statement on labels that the herbicide is a carcinogen is a violation of the company's free speech rights, if the required warning is not an "undisputed fact".

The injunction does not bar California from listing glyphosate as a carcinogen, but does block it from enforcing warning requirements. If Judge Shubb's interpretation sticks, the state could be forced to defend the scientific basis underlying the listing of chemicals under Prop 65, in lieu of accepting the findings of any one "authoritative body" referenced in the law.

Monsanto is backed by a coalition of industry groups in that case and a separate lawsuit brought under state law. In the latter, two courts have ruled against it on the issue of whether Prop 65 can rely on outside standards.

The state courts have held it is not an "unconstitutional delegation of authority" to list chemicals under Prop 65 based on determinations by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (Iarc).

Inclusion on the Proposition 65 list triggers requirements that consumers and employees exposed to the substance are warned, primarily through labelling.



Julie Miller

Reporter

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- California to update chromium VI, nickel public health goals
- US court rules on glyphosate labelling, threatening reach of Prop 65
- Judge rules against Monsanto in Prop 65 case

Further Information:

- Appellate decision on lead
- Order affirming injunction
- March glyphosate ruling

EU Commissioners urge greater action on SVHCs in imported articles

Level playing field needed, REACH Review conference hears

21 June 2018 / Alternatives assessment & substitution, Europe, REACH, SVHCs

The EU Commissioner for environment, maritime affairs and fisheries has urged Echa to assess the need for a restriction of SVHCs in imported articles earlier in the regulatory process.

Action 11(1) of the REACH Review calls upon Echa to consider developing systematically a restriction dossier before the sunset date for substances listed on Annex XIV – the authorisation list.

Speaking to delegates at last week's conference on the second Review of the Regulation, Karmenu Vella said that when companies point out that articles imported into the EU can still contain substances for which they have had to obtain authorisation "they do have a point".

It is an "understandable concern" for domestic companies which want a level playing field for EU and non-EU companies, he added. It is also "a very obvious concern" to citizens because of the potential impact on the environment and human health.

He said he would be following the outcome of Echa's assessment "very, very closely".

Mr Vella's calls are related to the requirement in REACH Article 69(2), which states that Echa must assess the need for a restriction on substances included in Annex XIV for their use in articles (EU produced and imported) and propose such a measure – if the risks are not adequately controlled – once the sunset date for the substance has passed.

The agency told Chemical Watch it has already assessed five substances and concluded that no restriction is required. For another four substances – the phthalates DEHP, DBP, DIBP and BBP – Echa proposed a restriction, which was supported by the Committees for Risk Assessment and Socio-economic Analysis (Rac and Seac) and is currently being discussed in the REACH Committee.

Meanwhile, restriction dossiers are being prepared for TCEP and lead chromates. For the remaining substances, Echa said it will carry out screening reports to assess if a restriction is required over the next six to 12 months.

The agency added that it is also assessing what can be done to speed up the process in the future, "such as gathering information on use of Annex IV substances in articles whilst the application for authorisation process is ongoing".

However, it said, the outcome of the application for authorisation process and whether an authorisation is granted "is an important issue to be clarified before any restriction is proposed".

Market protection

At the REACH Review conference, Elżbieta Bieńkowska, commissioner for internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs, said authorities needs to ensure that substances subject to authorisation in the EU will not bring risks when they are used in articles that are imported into the single market.

"On the other hand," she added "whenever we restrict the use of substances or their presence in articles, we have to make sure that this applies to imports as well."

The Review, she added, identifies the need to enhance enforcement, in particular at the border. Establishing closer cooperation of authorities responsible for REACH and customs authorities will be "vital", she said.

And Ms Bieńkowska also reiterated her previous calls for the simplification of the authorisation process. The Review found companies are investing in substitution of SVHCs and improving risk management measures when substitution is not possible, she said. However, authorisation is a "resource- and time-intensive process that should be simplified" and must be made more predictable for companies, she said.

Echa's Enforcement Forum will conduct a third pilot project on authorisation in 2019. This will check whether companies that are using Annex XIV substances, or marketing them, have the required authorisation.

Luke Buxton

Europe desk editor

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- Incentives needed to trigger REACH dossier updates – Bjorn Hansen
- Echa's Seac adopts restriction proposals on four phthalates
- Echa recommends restriction on flame retardants in polyurethane foams
- Echa round-up
- EU Commissioner Bieńkowska calls for authorisation simplification
- EU enforcement project to check REACH registrations in 2019

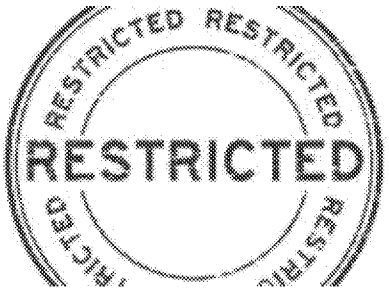
Further Information:

- REACH Review conference programme
- Echa restriction activities

ChemSec disputes Echa has 'addressed' all relevant SVHCs

Agency head urged to 'clean up' candidate list process

21 June 2018 / Alternatives assessment & substitution, Europe, REACH, SVHCs



NGO ChemSec is challenging Echa's claim that it has "addressed all relevant currently known" SVHCs.

The agency most recently stated this in its fourth progress report on the implementation of the SVHC roadmap.

The NGO is questioning Echa's use of the words 'addressed' and 'relevant' and will be raising the issue in a letter to agency head Bjorn Hansen next week.

"We don't agree they are addressed because they are not [all] on the candidate list. They are somewhere in the system," ChemSec senior toxicologist Anna Lennquist tells Chemical Watch.

She says she sees the need to put high priority substances in the system "because we know they are used and in that sense relevant". But, she adds: "You cannot just sit back and say that's it, that's done."

In Echa's automated SVHC roadmap process, Ms Lennquist says, unregistered substances are "usually filtered out". It does not mean that the agency can say the non-registered are not relevant, she adds, because they may well be.

There are "very many substances" Echa needs to look at that are not yet regulated. "They are just somewhere in some expert group."

And when the agency uses the words 'relevant substances', she says, it's really whatever they think is so. "It's time to move beyond that now for Echa and member states."

In November last year, Echa analysis identified seven substances on ChemSec's Substitute It Now (SIN List) that are not yet under regulatory scrutiny but that may be potentially harmful to humans or the environment.

The SIN List contains publicly available information on substances from existing databases and scientific studies, as well as new research. At the end of last year, the NGO produced a report which said the list shows the REACH process is too slow. It cited the wide disparity between it and the candidate list of substances.

'Political' process

The second REACH Review acknowledges that the process of adding SVHCs to the candidate list is "extremely slow", Ms Lennquist says, and that the precautionary principle is "not yet used".

The process is 'politicised' and there is "so much manufacturing of doubt from industry, so much insecurity from member states", which she says are too cautious. "They want to nominate something they know is certain to get through because it is costly."

Many of the last year's nominated substances, she adds, were degradation products of a substance already on the candidate list, or a mixture with something closely related to a substance on the list.

"All the time they are trying to take the very secure ones people can agree on rather than perhaps the most important ones that we can protect human health and the environment from."

There is a need to work on many different levels, she says, to "take back the candidate list and its role".

Overall, she adds, there is a "common understanding" that this is an important list. The actors need to "work harder to get it populated and this letter to Bjorn is one way of doing that. We hope he can have an overview and clean that up because it is difficult on a member state level to have this."

Ms Lennquist talks more on the issue in this month's Global Business Briefing.

Luke Buxton

Europe desk editor

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- Echa: improvements needed in group screening approach
- Echa finds unregulated substances on ChemSec SIN List
- EU publishes delayed second REACH Review
- The usual suspects: time to move beyond the most obvious SVHCs

Further Information:

- Echa SVHC roadmap report
- ChemSec report comparing SIN list with REACH processes

US ATSDR releases 'suppressed' PFAS tox profile

Study confirms EPA guidelines 'woefully underestimate risk', says NGO

21 June 2018 / PFCs, Toxicology, United States

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

The US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has released a controversial draft toxicological profile on four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). The move comes amid uproar over allegations that other federal agencies were suppressing its release.

Last month, internal EPA emails released under a public records request showed concern that the ATSDR was planning to publish a study with minimal risk levels (MRLs) for the PFASs far below those set by the EPA. One White House staffer feared this would result in a "public relations nightmare".

Congress and the consumer advocacy community responded with outrage over the delay, and called for the ATSDR – which is housed under the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – to release the draft toxicological profile.

Now the "very, very low" MRLs values referenced in the January email exchange have been confirmed in the toxicological profile for four of the 14 assessed substances: PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, and PFNA.

The limits are set out on a body-weight basis (mg/kg/day), intended to serve as estimates of daily human exposure unlikely to cause an appreciable risk of adverse non-cancer health effects.

Environmental Working Group researchers tell Chemical Watch that using the EPA's methodology for translating these figures into drinking water advisory values results in the following levels:

- PFOS: approximately 7 parts per trillion (ppt);
- PFOA and PFNA: approximately 11ppt; and
- PFHxS: approximately 74ppt.

This contrasts with the EPA's non-enforceable lifetime health advisory level for PFOA and PFOS of 70ppt in drinking water. This makes its level seven to ten times higher than that recommended by the ATSDR, says the EWG.

And it "confirms that the EPA's guidelines for PFAS levels in drinking water woefully underestimate risks to human health," said Olga Naidenko, senior science adviser at the group.

NGOs push for further action

Michael Halpern of the NGO Union of Concerned Scientists praised the ATSDR for "finally doing the right thing" by releasing the "suppressed" assessment.

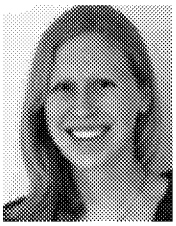
He requested that Congress "step up oversight into political interference in science that causes direct harm to public health and the environment."

And the EWG used the document's release to reiterate a call made by 40 NGOs for US states to continue taking the lead on eliminating the use of PFASs.

"It will largely fall to state and local governments to step in and take the necessary action to deliver results for the public," said EWG president Ken Cook.

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) told Chemical Watch it looked forward to reviewing the draft and providing feedback.

The ATSDR will accept comments on the document for 30 days. It is particularly seeking "additional information, reports and studies about the health effects of these substances" for possible inclusion in the final profile.



Kelly Franklin

North America editor

Related Articles

- White House fears PR 'nightmare' over PFAS risk level
- US senators demand release of controversial PFAS report
- US NGOs press for release of PFAS tox profile
- NGOs in US push for state-level action on PFASs

Further Information:

- Profile
- Federal Register
- EWG release
- UCS release

Greenpeace finds PFAS and microplastics in the Antarctic

Polyester fabric is likely source of microfibres, says report

21 June 2018 / Global, Microplastics, PFCs, Textiles & apparel

A Greenpeace study, has revealed the presence of microplastics and per- and polyfluorinated alkylated substances (PFASs) in seawater and snow samples from the Antarctic.

The samples were gathered during a three-month expedition from January to March this year.

In its recently published report, *Microplastics and persistent fluorinated chemicals in the Antarctic,* Greenpeace says the study shows "even the most remote and pristine habitats of the Antarctic are contaminated with microplastic waste and persistent hazardous chemicals".

The study found:

- seven out of eight seawater samples contained microplastics;
- microplastics were detected in two samples of seawater taken using a manta trawl (a net system for sampling the surface of the ocean);
- seven out of nine snow samples tested contained detectable concentrations of PFASs.

'Fast fashion' risk

Microplastics are defined by Greenpeace, as pieces of plastic "with a diameter of 5mm or less" which are likely to come from microbeads in personal care products, fragments from land-based sources such as tyres, or fibres from synthetic clothes, which are released into wastewater systems when consumers wash them.

The most likely sources of microplastic fibres in the Antarctic ocean, the report says, are fishing nets and polyester from textiles.

"Synthetic fibres, especially polyester, are widely used in textile products. For example, 60% of the material currently used in clothing is polyester, much of it in short life 'fast fashion' items of clothing," the report says.

Last year, Greenpeace warned about the industry's use of large quantities of polyester and its contribution to pollution of the oceans with microplastic fibres. Its Fashion at the crossroads report called for industry to slow down its plans for expansion - which include plans to nearly double its annual use of polyester by up to 76 million tonnes annual by 2030.

According to the report the "synthetic nature and their propensity to absorb or attract chemicals from seawater on to their surfaces" of microplastics means they can also carry "substantial concentrations of a range of chemical additives and contaminants, contributing to the exposure of marine species to hazardous chemicals".

The European apparel and textile confederation, Euratex declined to comment.

'Global spread'

The most commonly detected chemical was PFOA, which was found in "significant concentrations" in five out of nine snow samples.

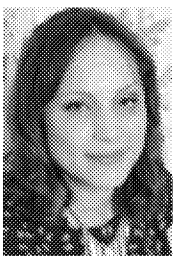
Greenpeace says the findings confirm its conclusion from previous expeditions, that once PFAS are released they "are spread globally by long distance transport through the atmosphere and are deposited as snow in all remote regions."

PFASs are widely used in many industrial processes and consumer products, such as in waterproof and dirt-repellent finishes by the outdoor apparel industry.

Jon Corley, spokesperson for the chemical industry trade association, FlouroCouncil, said it was difficult to comment on the report without knowing more about the underlying data and methodologies used.

"It is important to note they provide no risk context for the extremely low levels of PFAS detected in their report," he said.

In response, Kirsten Brodde, project lead for Greenpeace's Detox my Fashion campaign said: "The FluoroCouncil should be aware that persistent chemicals such as the PFAS found in Greenpeace's study can be hazardous at extremely low levels – they should be concerned by the fact that they've been found in habitats as remote as the Antarctic."



Tammy Lovell

Business reporter

Related Articles

- Italy to ban microplastics used in rinse-off cosmetics products
- Greenpeace: Premature circular economy threatens Detox campaign
- Gore and Greenpeace target 'PFCs of environmental concern'

Further Information:

- Greenpeace report
- Fashion at the crossroads report

Walmart considers blockchain technology for tracing chemicals

Potential to create 'a new era of transparency'

21 June 2018 / Confidentiality & right-to-know, Data, United States, Voluntary action

US retail giant Walmart is assessing whether the digital technology 'blockchain' can be used to trace chemicals across some of its products and packaging.

Blockchain is a digital record keeping system that enables the creation and maintenance of a growing number of records, allowing fast tracking of information. It was originally created to manage transactions through the crypto-currency Bitcoin, but has since shown potential for sharing and retrieving many other forms of data.

In its 2018 global responsibility report, the company says the technology holds a lot of promise for "enabling a new era of transparency and enhanced trust".

A Walmart spokesperson told Chemical Watch that,"the beauty of blockchain is that it lets us shine a light on a range of data attributes".

"We have certainly thought about how we could trace chemicals in foods and food packaging among these," she added.

Blockchain, she said, lets companies confidently and precisely pinpoint ingredients and suppliers, with dates, times, locations, temperatures, certificates and more.

"It can provide an extraordinary level of detail that we would definitely like to see include chemical ingredients, direct and indirect additives and colours," she added.

Pilot projects

Last year, Walmart collaborated with Chinese online retailer JD.com, IBM, and the Tsinghua University National Engineering Laboratory for E-Commerce Technologies to create a 'Blockchain Food Safety Alliance'. This aims to enhance food tracking, traceability and achieve greater transparency across the food supply chain.

In a trial of the technology, the company first asked a team to trace a package of sliced mangoes back to their source using current methods. Because of paper-based record keeping commonly used in the industry and multiple layers in produce supply chains, it took six days, 18 hours and 26 minutes.

However, using blockchain it was able to trace a mango in a US store back to its origin on a farm in Mexico in 2.2 seconds.

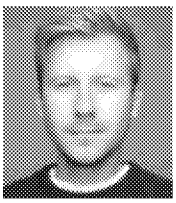
"Such capability would help enable rapid processing of recalls and help limit potential exposure to affected products," it said.

It also ran a blockchain pilot in China on pork, significantly reducing the time needed to trace products back to the farm.

Its potential has sparked the formation of a coalition comprised of the suppliers and retailers Danone, Dole, Driscolls, Golden State Foods, Kroger, McCormick, Nestlé, Tyson, Unilever and Walmart. The aim is to identify new areas where the global supply chain can benefit from blockchain.

The technology is a hot topic and has been linked with its potential use for a number of materials and products, including the tracking of conflict minerals and nanomaterials.

In a 2017 report on the mining industry, service provider PwC says through its use, materials could be tracked and traced from the "moment of extraction to the point of sale". This, it says, would satisfy increasing consumer demand for both improved supply chain transparency and more environmentally sound products.



Leigh Stringer

Global Business Editor

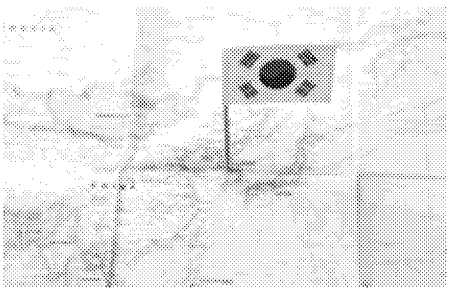
Further Information:

- Walmart 2018 report
- PwC report
- IBM press release

As deadline approaches, details emerge on K-REACH enforcement rules

Animal testing and polymer requirements are revealed

21 June 2018 / K-REACH, South Korea



With less than two weeks to go until the first K-REACH registration deadline of 30 June, 286 of the 370 substances expected have been submitted, with 109 of them completed, according to sources close to South Korea's Ministry of Environment.

And the MOE has provided extensive draft K-REACH enforcement rules. They include:

Animal testing

Duplicate vertebrate animal testing must be avoided. However, by presidential order, it can be carried out if:

- new findings suggest hazardousness and risk concerns;

- where existing data has low credibility; and
- when considering existing data costs and whether it can be shared.

When the owner of vertebrate animal testing data does not agree to share this, a company can apply to the MOE for an exemption from submitting the data. However, this only applies where the data owner is either registered or intends to register under K-REACH.

Polymers with hazardous monomers

A polymer can be not hazardous, but still subject to registration. This is if it contains a monomer that is subject to registration and the unreacted monomer persists at 0.1% or more of weight.

Abolition of risk concern products Regulation

The ministry guidelines also note that the "products of risk concern" Regulations under Article 34 of the initial K-REACH have been abolished; as have enforcement decrees and rules, including reporting on manufacturing. Regulation of these products has moved to K-BPR, where required.

Other sections of the enforcement rules include:

- registration outcomes;
- joint registration exceptions;
- research exemptions; and
- domestic representatives' obligations.

The public consultation on the draft rules runs until 9 July.

More details available on CW+AsiaHub

Sunny Lee

Asia editor

Related Articles

- South Korea's draft implementation rules arrive for updated K-REACH
- South Korea approves prioritisation of K-REACH alternative tests
- South Korea publishes decree on biocides law
- More detail on K-REACH enforcement rules as first deadline approaches

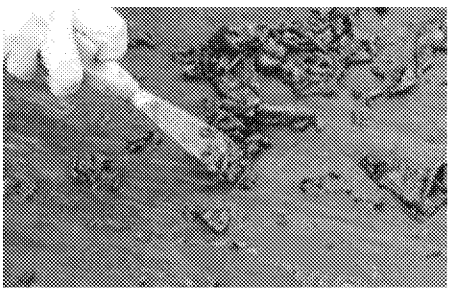
Further Information:

- MOE announcement (in Korean)
- Pecs registration status

US industry defends methylene chloride despite retailer bans

Consumers will buy paint removers in smaller hardware stores, says HSIA

21 June 2018 / Built environment, Retail, Solvents, United States



US industry groups have continued to defend the need for methylene chloride paint removers, despite three major retailers announcing plans to phase them out.

In recent weeks, retail giants Home Depot, Lowe's and Sherwin-Williams have pledged to stop selling products containing the solvent by the end of this year. The actions follow campaigning from consumer advocacy groups for a ban, after a number of deaths over the last few years.

But a spokesperson for the Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance (HSIA) insisted that methylene chloride products still had an important place in the marketplace, and "are the best products for efficient and effective paint removal".

Alternative formulations have not been widely accepted in the market, the spokesperson told Chemical Watch. "They do not work as well and many of them are flammable, unlike methylene chloride."

They are frequently returned to the store and exchanged for the methylene chloride-based products, the spokesperson added. "To the extent the big stores stop carrying these, I would guess contractors [and] knowledgeable consumers will go to smaller local hardware stores."

The US paint and coatings trade group, American Coatings Association, also defended the use of methylene chloride and alternative solvent N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) in paint removal products.

A spokesperson said the association "opposed outright bans of these compounds in the absence of environmentally safer alternatives."

ACA "strongly endorses following the precautionary labelling guidelines of using proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and ensuring proper ventilation," they said.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently expanded its labelling guidance for paint strippers containing methylene chloride to address acute inhalation hazards.

Decoupling NMP from methylene chloride

Meanwhile, the NMP Producers Group told Chemical Watch it believes the US EPA should decouple its approach to NMP and methylene chloride in regulating the products.

In 2017, the EPA proposed a single rule under section 6 of TSCA to ban methylene chloride paint strippers, and either to ban or impose restrictions on products containing NMP.

But Kathleen M Roberts, manager of the NMP Producers Group, said that assessing them as a single category had "led to confusion in the marketplace, by giving the impression these products present a comparable risk profile."

Methylene chloride is "very volatile and most of the exposures occur via inhalation", she said. NMP is "mildly volatile and most of the exposures would occur through dermal exposure".

The fact that the agency put forward a proposal for NMP that considers labelling and other restrictions in place of a ban "demonstrates that EPA does not intend for the two chemicals to be treated the same", Ms Roberts added.

Apparently shelved, the EPA announced last month that it will finalise a rule on methylene chloride. But the EPA's recent problem formulations suggest the agency might not be moving forward with its rulemaking on NMP.

Tammy Lovell

Business reporter

Related Articles

- Campaigners secure third paint stripper victory with Home Depot
- Lowe's to phase out methylene chloride, NMP paint removers
- Sherwin-Williams to stop selling methylene chloride paint removers
- NGOs push Lowe's on methylene chloride paint strippers
- CPSC updates methylene chloride labelling policy
- NMP producers urge withdrawal of TSCA section 6 rule
- US EPA proposes prohibitions on methylene chloride, NMP
- Restrictions on methylene chloride, NMP, TCE apparently shelved by US EPA
- US EPA commits to act on methylene chloride paint strippers
- US 'problem formulations' raise fears for TCE, NMP rules

US EPA updates TSCA new chemical submission guidance

21 June 2018 / Substance notification & inventories, TSCA, United States

The US EPA has published an updated copy of its guidance for submitting new chemicals for agency review under TSCA.

The newest version of the document – *Points to consider when preparing TSCA new chemical notifications* – incorporates comments received on a November draft, including those made at a December public meeting.

Formation of the document came amid ongoing industry frustration at the slow pace of review of pre-manufacture notices (PMNs) since TSCA was amended in 2016. It provides non-binding information to assist submitters in preparing PMNs, significant new use notices (Snuns) or exemption notices under section 5 of TSCA.

The agency says the guidance "promotes early engagement and communication, and enhances overall understanding of EPA's technical review and analysis to better move chemicals through the evaluation process."

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said this will "increase manufacturers' certainty, improve submissions, and get new, safer chemicals on the market faster and more efficiently".

Alongside the guidance, the agency has published responses to more than 100 comments raised by stakeholders.

Related Articles

- US EPA explains new chemicals decision-making process
- OPPT director defends US agency plans for new chemical evaluation
- Halt on TSCA 'non 5(e) Snurs' raises industry concerns
- Industry groups seek changes to TSCA new substance reviews
- TSCA new chemicals programme named a top regulatory burden

Further Information:

- Points to Consider EPA page
- Comment responses
- Points to Consider document

Echa round-up

21 June 2018 / Classification, labelling and packaging Regulation, Europe, REACH, Safety data sheets

Testing proposals

Echa has invited third parties to submit scientifically valid information and studies on 13 testing proposals for nine substances. The deadline for providing information is 2 August.

CLH intentions

The agency has received new intentions to harmonise the classification and labelling of:

- multi-walled carbon nanotubes (fibres fulfilling the WHO definition: diameter <3µm, fibre length >5µm and aspect ratio ≥3:1, with a diameter >xx nm), [MWCNT]. Additional lower cut-off value for the diameter of the MWCNT will be clarified in the final CLH proposal. Germany proposes a harmonised classification of carcinogen 1B, specific target organ toxicity-repeated exposure (Stot Re) with submission expected by 31 December;
- 2,4,6-tri-tert-butylphenol; and
- 6-[(C10-C13)-alkyl (branched, unsaturated)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl] hexanoic acid.

Echa closure

Echa will be closed on 22 June.

Video on updating REACH-IT contact details

The agency has reminded registrants of the importance of keeping contact details up to date in its REACH-IT tool. There is a video with practical advice on how to do this, which is through the REACH-IT menu (Menu/Manage company/Contacts).

It is also important, Echa says, to make sure the email address in the 'Email notifcation settings' is up to date (Menu/Manage company/Contacts). An email is sent to this account every time an action is required in REACH-IT by the registrant, for example, updating a dossier, it says.

Update to interactive guide on SDSs

Echa has updated its interactive guide on safety data sheets and exposure scenarios. The guide is to help suppliers and SDS recipients to compile and understand substance and use information.

The agency has fixed some minor bugs and updated links. Translated versions will be corrected in coming weeks.

Consultation on new guidance on Annex VIII to CLP

The agency has sent its new draft guidance on harmonised information related to emergency health response for Forum consultation (Annex VIII to CLP).

Further Information:

- Current testing proposals
- Registry for CLH intentions
- Video on contact details for REACH-IT
- Interactive guide on SDSs

Echa opens consultation on derogation request for PFOA restriction

21 June 2018 / Alternatives assessment & substitution, Europe, PFCs, REACH

Echa is inviting comments on a proposal for an additional derogation to the restriction of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related substances (entry 68 of Annex XVII to REACH).

The agency's Committees for Risk Assessment and for Socio-economic Analysis (Rac and Seac) have been requested to prepare an opinion.

Echa says this assessment is not being carried out under the normal restriction procedure as it is a specific request from the European Commission for a derogation on an existing restriction. The opinions will be sent to the Commission by 1 December 2018.

The restriction entered into force in June 2017 and includes several derogations for different industrial sectors and uses.

The derogation review request came from pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, which uses perfluorooctane bromide (PFOB) for the manufacturing of pharmaceutical products for the treatment of pulmonary diseases.

PFOB is excluded from the scope of the PFOA restriction, but it contains perfluorooctane iodide (PFOI) as an impurity in concentrations above the threshold in the PFOA restriction. PFOI is a PFOA-related substance that is covered by the restriction.

The public consultation ends on 20 August.

Further Information:

- Consultation page

US legislators seek changes in Iarc procedures

Threat to bar funding continues a long campaign

21 June 2018 / Toxicology, United States

Members of the House Appropriations Committee have demanded assurances that the International Agency for Research on Cancer (Iarc) will make specified changes in the way it conducts research reviews as a condition of receiving US funding.

Fiscal 2019 spending legislation contains a provision barring funding for Iarc's monograph programme unless the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) submits to Congress a report which describes "that grants, contracts or cooperative agreement awards to Iarc will require":

- a "transparent review process" in which drafts and revisions are publicly available online;
- a process to "address conflicts of interest in the selection of individuals involved with monograph programme assessments;"
- use of "the best available science" in developing assessment conclusions; and
- summaries of "relevant and significant" studies and reports that do not support assessment conclusions.

The legislation, approved on 15 June by a House appropriations subcommittee, covers the fiscal year beginning on 1 October. But spending bills are not likely to be finalised for several months, and Senate appropriators would have to agree for the provision to be included in the final version.

Long-simmering row

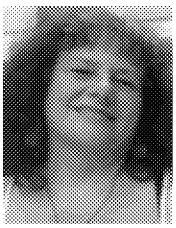
The appropriations rider is the latest salvo in a long-running feud between the international agency and Republicans in the US Congress.

Members of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology recently wrote to Elisabete Weiderpass, the incoming Iarc director, asking her to testify at a July hearing. The letter described the monograph programme as "an affront to scientific integrity" and accused Dr Weiderpass of having aligned herself with "shoddy and politics-driven science".

Iarc's decisions have regulatory implication in the US because they lead to substances being listed as carcinogens under California's Proposition 65.

Critics have taken aim at Iarc's procedures generally, but their primary focus has been its 2015 review of glyphosate – the primary ingredient of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide – which Iarc classified as "probably" carcinogenic to humans. Litigation over the substance's listing under Prop 65 is currently underway.

The NIH has given nearly $48m to Iarc since 1985. More than $22m of this went to the monographs programme.



Julie Miller

Reporter

Related Articles

- Incoming Iarc boss gets hearing request from US Republicans

Further Information:

- Appropriations bill

EU presidency to 'finalise' POPs recast

21 June 2018 / Europe, Persistent organic pollutants

Austria said it aims to finalise the recast of the persistent organic pollutants (POPs) Regulation during its presidency of the Council of the EU, which starts on 1 July.

The recast provides for adjustments to the Treaty of Lisbon and to the definitions of EU chemicals and waste legislation, as well as an adaptation of the monitoring system.

In May, NGO the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) sent a letter to Austrian chancellor Sebastian Kurz urging the country to seize "significant opportunities" to improve chemicals regulations and push for better controls of hazardous substances during its presidency.

Related Articles

- Austrian EU presidency urged to act on chemicals controls

Further Information:

- Document

NGO launches Brexit and chemicals blog

21 June 2018 / Europe, REACH, United Kingdom

UK NGO CHEM Trust has set up a blog containing perspectives and news on chemicals regulations as Britain prepares to leave the EU.

In it, the NGO say it agrees with Cefic's calls for a post-Brexit bilateral chemicals regulations agreement, advocating continued membership of Echa and the retention of REACH in the UK.

Speaking at Chemical Watch's second Brexit conference in April, CHEM Trust executive director Michael Warhurst said the remaining 27 countries might come to recognise the benefits to the EU of allowing the UK to stay in REACH.

Related Articles

- Cefic calls for post-Brexit bilateral chemicals regulations agreement
- UK chemicals industry sees progress, but Brexit 'clock ticking furiously'

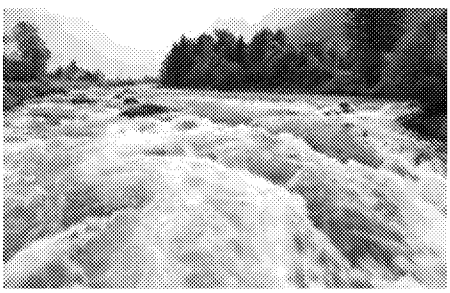
Further Information:

- CHEM Trust blog

Echa's MSC agrees that D4, D5 and D6 are SVHCs

Strong reaction from industry

21 June 2018 / Built environment, Ecotoxicology, Europe, Persistent, bioaccumulative & toxic, REACH



Echa's Member State Committee has agreed that the siloxanes D4, D5 and D6 are all REACH substances of very high concern (SVHCs), based on persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) properties. Industry has voiced strong criticism of the decision.

Based on intrinsic properties, D4 is both PBT and "very persistent, very bioaccumulative" (vPvB), while D5 and D6 are only considered vPvB. The use of D4 and D5 is already restricted in wash off personal care products - at a concentration equal to or greater than 0.1% by weight - to reduce emissions to the aquatic environment.

The MSC agreed that D5 and D6 can be considered PBT and vPvB because of D4 impurities, when present at "relevant concentrations" above or equal to 0.1% by weight.

"If D5 and D6 get into the environment, the impurity D4 will have its own fate and behaviour," said Watze de Wolf, MSC chair. D5 and D6 products without D4 impurities would not be considered PBT, he added.

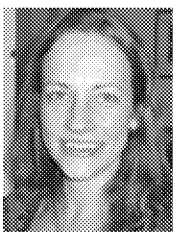
Germany compiled the SVHC reports for D4 and D5, while Echa prepared D6's Annex XV report, at the European Commission's request. In its reports, Germany recommends not immediately including the substances on the authorisation list (Annex XIV). Once included, they would no longer be subject to targeted restrictions, it says.

However, Pierre Germain, secretary general of trade organisation CES-Silicones Europe, said: "The silicones industry strongly believes that the Member State Committee has not taken full account of the whole body of scientific evidence."

"It should have recognised that measured levels in the real environment are extremely low; taken into account already applicable or ongoing regulatory activities; and that it will cause considerable uncertainty for customers on a global level," he added.

A recent US industry-funded study suggested that D4 poses a "negligible risk to the environment", based on data collected under an Environmental Protection Agency enforceable consent order.

On 2 April, the Global Silicones Council, US, together with European silicones producers, launched legal action against the European Commission. They argue that criteria in Annex XIII of REACH should not have been used to decide on the persistence and bioaccumulation of D4 and D5. The applicants describe concerns over hazard assessment, risk assessment and the use of weight of evidence.



Dr Emma Davies

Reporter

Related Articles

- Echa seeks views on SVHC identification proposals
- D4 poses negligible risk to environment, says industry

Further Information:

- D4 Annex XV report
- D5 Annex XV report

- D6 Annex XV report
- Action brought by the Global Silicones Council et al

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The Copenhagen Post - Danish news in english

However, a new report from the Ministry of the Environment **and** Food ... The **toxic** toys will be removed from the shelves as soon as possible **and** the ...

Chemical flame retardants are toxic. It's time for California to ban them.

Sacramento Bee

One of the great consumer and public safety success stories in recent years is California's long-running battle to get **toxic chemical** flame retardants ...

22 Non-Toxic Toys For Babies And Toddlers On Amazon

HuffPost

That's why we've found some of the best non-**toxic** toys for babies **and** toddlers you can find on Amazon. Keep reading for our 22 favorite finds below.

Home Depot to ban potentially toxic paint strippers

Atlanta Business Chronicle

The world's largest home improvement retailer said Tuesday it will ban a pair of potentially **toxic chemicals** in its paint strippers. The Home Depot ...

Major retailers say they'll phase out sales of paint stripper with chemical linked to deaths - ABC News